

COLUMBIAN HISTORIAN.

"Enlightened minds and virtuous manners lead to the gates of glory."

VOL. I. NEW-RICHMOND, JANUARY 7, 1825. NO. 19.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY A. C. & J. HERRON, AT \$1 50
CTS. PER ANNUM, PAYABLE HALF-YEARLY IN ADVANCE.

enant of grace, and in a state of favor with the Almighty; and the latter, as under a covenant of works, and the objects of his displeasure. Religious conferences were held; days of fasting and humiliation were appointed; a general synod was called; and, at last, to the honor of our national nature, Mrs. Hutchinson's opinions were condemned as erroneous; and she herself was banished from the colony. It was after this decision that Vane quitted the settlement.

But whatever the pernicious consequences of these theological disputes might be, they certainly contributed to the more speedy population of America. The proceedings against Mrs. Hutchinson excited no little in the minds of those who adhered to her sentiments. A party of these withdrawing from the communion of their brethren, joined themselves to the disciples of Williams, who was banished from Salem in the year 1664; and purchasing from the Indians an island in Narraganset-bay, they gave to it the name of Rhode Island, and settled there. The colony of Connecticut owes its origin to the dissensions between Hooker and Cotton, two favorite preachers in Massachusetts; and those of New Hampshire and Maine, chiefly to the separation of Wheelwright, a proselyte of Mrs. Hutchinson, from the rest of the community in the same province.

These new establishments expo-

sed the English to great dangers from the Indians, by whom they were surrounded. The Pequods, an ancient and martial tribe, were the first who took the alarm. Relinquishing their former animosities, they proposed to the Narragansets that they should unite against the common enemy; whose numbers became every day more formidable, and whose progress threatened them both with indiscriminate ruin. But such was the love of revenge, or the want of foresight in the part of the Narragansets, that, instead of joining with the Pequods in defence of their country and their freedom, they communicated the proposal which had been made to them to the governor of Massachusetts bay; and united with him against the Indians whom it was the English interest to oppose. The Pequods, exasperated rather than discouraged, took the field, and laid siege to Fort Saybrooke. Captain Tenderhill was despatched to its relief; and it was agreed by the colonies of Massachusetts, Plymouth, and Connecticut, that they should march next year into the country of the enemy, and put a final termination to their hostilities. But the colony of Massachusetts was divided about the covenant of works and the covenant of grace: It was found, that some, both of the officers and men who were to fight its battles, were yet under the covenant of works; the others therefore declared, that the blessing of God could not

rest on the arms of such as differed from them on this metaphysical question; and it was not till after much alarm, and many changes, that they were sufficiently pure to begin the war: In the mean while, the troops of Connecticut were obliged to advance against the enemy. The Indians were posted on a rising ground, not far from the head of the river Mystic, and had fortified themselves with pallisades; the only method of defence with which they were acquainted. They had been deceived by the movement of the English vessels from Saybrooke to Narraganset; and, imagining that the expedition was abandoned, and given themselves up to riot and security. At the break of day, while the Indians were overpowered with sleep, the colonists approached; and had not the savages been alarmed by the barking of a dog, the surprize and destruction would have been complete. They instantly raised the war-cry, and flew to such arms as they possessed. But though their courage was great, they were speedily discomfited by the discipline and bravery of the Europeans. The English shot at them through the pallisades, forced their way through the works, and set fire to their huts. Many of the women and children perished in the flames. The confusion and terror became general, and scarcely any of the party escaped. This blow was followed by others equally effectual. The troops of Connecticut, being reinforced at length by those of Massachusetts, they pursued the enemy from one retreat to another; and in less than three months, the Pequots were completely extirpated, that their very name as a tribe was lost. A few

individuals, who escaped the general carnage, were incorporated with the neighboring tribes.

In consequence of this decisive campaign, which was marked by cruelties, required neither by good policy nor by necessity, the English enjoyed a long tranquility in their colonies.

Immediately after the termination of the war, New Haven was settled.

The number of emigrants from England stil continued to increase. Multitudes, driven from their country by the oppression of its rulers, found safety and protection in the colonies of America. Charles I. alarmed at the diminution of his subjects at home, issued a proclamation, by which the masters of ships were forbidden to carry passengers to New England without his permission; a mandate, which though it was often disregarded, operated in one instance with a full and fatal effect. Sir Arthur Haslerg, Oliver Cromwell, John Hampden, and others of the same principles, had hired some ships to carry them to America; and the king laid an embargo on the vessels just when they were ready to sail! By this means, he forcibly detained in England the persons who afterwards overturned his throne, and brought him to the scaffold.

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About the commencement of the war, between the united colonies of North America and great Britain; representations had been made by the governor to administration, stating the necessity of stationing a military force in the province for the protection of the officers employed in collecting the revenue, and of the magistrates in preserving the public peace; and orders to detach at

least one regiment, on that service had already been given to General Gage, who was directed to select for the command of it, an officer, on whose prudence, resolution, and integrity he could entirely rely. The transactions respecting the seizure of the sloop Liberty rendered any attempt to produce a countermand these orders entirely abortive, and probably was the cause that two regiments instead of one, were detached by General Gage.

Before the arrival of this military force, the governor had used expressions intimating that it might be expected; in consequence of which a committee of the inhabitants was deputed in a town meeting to wait on his excellency, and know on what the suspicions he had expressed were founded and also to pray him to convene another general assembly.

The answer of the governor confirmed their fears respecting a military force, though he assured them that he had no official communication on the subject; and contained also the information, that no other assembly could be convoked until his majesty's commands for that purpose should be received.

It seems to have been supposed that a dissolution of the assembly of Massachusetts would dissolve also the opposition; and that the people, having no longer constitutional leaders, being no longer excited and conducted by their representatives, would gradually become quiet, and return to, what was termed, their duty to government. But the opinions expressed by the house of representatives were the opinions of the great body of the people, and had taken too deep root to be so readily suppressed. The most active

and energetic part of society had embraced them with enthusiasm and the dissolution of the assembly only created a necessity for devising others, perhaps more efficient expedients; and hastened a mode of conducting their opposition, which was afterwards universally adopted.

The answer of the governor to their message being reported the meeting immediately proceeded to resolve, "that to levy money within that province by any other authority than that of the general Court, was a violation of the royal charter, and of the undoubted natural rights of British subjects.

That the freeholders and other inhabitants of the town of Boston would at the peril of their lives and fortunes, take all legal and constitutional measures to defend all and singular the rights, liberties, privileges, and immunities, granted in their royal charter.

"That, as there was an apprehension in the minds of many of an approaching war with France, those inhabitants, who were not provided with arms, should be requested duly to observe the laws of the province, which required that every householder should furnish himself with a complete stand."

They further resolved, "that as the governor did not think proper to call a general court for the redress of their grievances, the town would then make choice of a suitable number of persons to act for them as a committee in convention, to be held in Faneuil hall in Boston, with such as might be sent to join them from the several towns in the province."

These votes were, at the desire of the meeting, communicated by the select men in a circular letter to the other towns in the province

which were invited to concur in them, and to elect committee men who should meet those of Boston, in convention.

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History.

In treating of the American revolution, the English writers ascribe that event to the successful intrigues of the French government; they appear willing to search for the origin in any other source than their own misconduct. It has therefore been repeatedly asserted, "that the French having long viewed with envy and apprehension, the flourishing state of the colonies which Britain had founded in America, began immediately after the peace of Paris to carry into execution their design of separating the colonies from the mother country. Secret emissaries, it is said, were employed in spreading dissatisfaction among the colonists, and the effects produced by these machinating spirits, are described to have been a rapid diminution of that warm attachment which the inhabitants of North America had hitherto demonstrated for the mother country." That such emissaries were ever employed is a fact unsupported by any document which the purity of historical truth can admit: and although the effects here described, have certainly appeared, it must be remembered, that their appearance followed, but did not precede, the attempts of Britain, upon the rights and liberties of America.

That the French should succeed in the arts of intrigue, so far as to alienate the affections of the colonists from the mother country, and at the close of

a war, in which their interests and feelings had been interwoven with more than usual strength & energy, was not in any sense probable. But if we trace these effects to another cause, the love of liberty, and a quick sense of injury, their appearance will be natural and just; consistent with the American character, and corresponding with the conduct which was displayed in all the various changes that attended their opposition.

In March, 1762, a bill was passed in the British parliament, by which heavy duties were laid on goods imported by the colonists from such West India islands as did not belong to Great Britain; and that these duties were to be paid into the exchequer, in specie, and in the same session another bill was framed, to retain the currency of paper money in the colonies. Not only the principle of taxation, but the mode of collection was considered as an unconstitutional and oppressive innovation, as the penalties incurred by an infraction of the acts of parliament, were to be recovered in courts of admiralty, before a single judge (whose salary was to be the fruit of the forfeitures he should descry.)

These acts threw the whole continent into a ferment. Vehement remonstrance were made to the ministry, and every argument made use of that reason or ingenuity could suggest, but without a good effect; their reasoning however convinced a great number of people in Britain; and thus the American cause came to be considered as the cause of liberty.

The Americans, finding that all their remonstrances were fruitless, at last united in an agreement not to import any more of

the British manufactures, but to encourage to the utmost of their power, every useful manufacture among themselves. Thus the British manufacturers became a party against the ministry, and expressed their resentment in strong terms; but the ministry were not to be easily daunted; and therefore proceeded to the last step of their intended plan, which was to lay on stamp duties throughout the continent. Previous to this, several regulations were made in favour of the commerce of the colonies: but they had imbibed such unfavourable impressions of the British ministry that they paid but very little regard to any thing pretended to be done in their favour; or, if these acts had made any favourable impressions, the stamp act at once obliterated every sentiment of that nature.

The reason given for this act, so exceedingly obnoxious, was, that a sum might be raised sufficient for the defence of the colonies against a foreign enemy; but this pretence was far from giving satisfaction to the Americans, that it excited their indignation to the utmost. They not only asserted that they were abundantly able to defend themselves, but denied the right of the British parliament to tax them at all.

To enter into the arguments of the contending parties upon this occasion would be superfluous. It was manifest that the matter was not to be decided but by force of arms: and the British ministry, confident of the authority and power of that country, were disposed so carry matters with a high hand, to terrify the colonists into submission, or compel them by force.

The stamp act, after a violent opposition in parliament, was passed, and its reception into America was such as might have been expected. The news, and the act itself, first arrived at Boston, where the bells were muffled, and rung a funeral peal. The act was first hawked about the streets, with a death's head affixed to it, and styled. "*The folly of England, and the ruin of America.*" It was

Indian Wars.

THERE was a tribe of Indians who inhabited the borders of Connecticut river, from its mouth to within a few miles of Hartford, called *Pequots*, a fierce, cruel, and war-like tribe, and the inveterate enemies of the English; never failing to improve every opportunity to exercise toward them, the most wanted acts of barbarity.—In June 1634, they treacherously murdered a Capt. Stone, and a Capt. Norton, who had been long in the habit of visiting them occasionally to trade.—In August 1635, they inhumanly murdered a Mr. Weeks and his whole family, consisting of a wife and six children, and soon after murdered the wife and children of a Mr. Williams, residing near Hartford.—Finding, however, that by their unprovoked acts of barbarity, they had enkindled the resentment of the English (who, aroused to a sense of their danger, were making preparations to exterminate this cruel tribe) the Pequots despatched messengers with gifts to the governor of the new colonies (the Hon. Josiah Winslow)—he being, however, inflexible in his determination to revenge the death of his friends, dismissed these messengers without an an-

swer.--The Pequots finding the English resolute and determined, and fearing the consequence of their resentment, the second time despatched messengers with a large quantity of *wampum* (Indian money) as a present to the governor and council: with whom the latter had a considerable conference, and at length concluded a peace on the following terms:—

ARTICLES.

I. The Pequots shall deliver up to the English those of their tribe that are guilty of the deaths of their countrymen.

II. The Pequots shall relinquish to the English all their right and title to the lands lying within the colony of Connecticut.

III. The English, if disposed to trade with the Pequots, shall be treated as friends.

To these articles the Pequots readily agreed & promised faithfully to adhere, and at the same time expressed a desire to make peace with the Narraganset Indians, with whom they were then at war.

Soon after the conclusion of peace with the Pequots, the English, to put their fair promises to the test, sent a small boat into the river, on the borders of which they resided, with the pretence of trade; but so great was the treachery of the natives, that after succeeding by fair promises in enticing the crew of said boat on shore, they were by them inhumanly murdered.

The Pequots despairing of again deceiving the English in the manner they had lately done, now threw off the mask of friendship, and avowing themselves the natural enemies of the English, commenced open hostilities against them, barbarously murdering all

that were so unfortunate as to fall into their hands.—A few families were at this time settled at or near Weatherfield, (Conn.) the whole of whom were carried away captives by them; two girls, the daughters of a Mr. Gibbons, of Hartford, were in the most brutal manner put to death; after gashing their flesh with their knives, the Indians filled their wounds with hot embers, in the mean time mimicking their dying groans.

The Pequots, encouraged by the trifling resistance made by the English to their wanton acts of barbarity, on the 20th June, 1636, besieged fort Saybrook, in which there were about twenty men stationed; the Indians were to the number of about one hundred and fifty, they surrounded and furiously attacked the fort at midnight, horribly yelling and mimicking the dying groans of such as had fallen victims to their barbarity: but the English being fortunately provided with a piece of cannon or two, caused their savage enemies to groan in reality, who, after receiving two or three deadly fires from the besieged, retreated, leaving behind them dead or mortally wounded about twenty of their number; the English sustained no loss in the attack.

The Governor and Council of Massachusetts colony, alarmed at the bold and daring conduct of the Pequots, on the 20th August despatched Capt. Endicot, of Salem, with ninety men to avenge the murders committed by them, unless they should consent to deliver up the murderers, and make reparation for the injuries which the English had sustained. Capt. Endicot was directed to proceed first to Block-Island (then inhabited by the Pequots) put the men

to the sword and take possession of the island—the women and children were to be spared—thence he was to proceed to the Pequot country, demand the murderers of the English, a thousand fathom of wampum, and a number of their children as hostages.

Capt. Endicot sailed from Boston on the morning of the 20th; when he arrived at Block-Island, about sixty Indians appeared on the shore and opposed his landing: his men soon however effected a landing, and after a little skirmishing drove the Indians into the woods, where they could not be found. The English continued two days on the island, in which time they destroyed 100 wigwams and about fifty canoes, when they proceeded for the Pequot country.—When they arrived in Pequot harbour, Capt. Endicot acquainted the enemy with his designs and determination to avenge the cruelties practised upon his countrymen—in a few moments, nearly 500 of the enemy collected upon the shores, but as soon as they were made acquainted with the hostile views of the English, they hastily withdrew, and secreted themselves in swamps and ledges, inaccessible to the troops;—Capt. Endicot landed his men on both sides the harbour, burnt their wigwams and destroyed their canoes, killed an Indian or two, and then returned to Boston!—Enough indeed had been done to exasperate, but nothing to subdue a haughty and warlike enemy.

Sassacus (chief sachem of the Pequots) and his captains, were men of great and independent spirits; they had conquered and governed the nations around them without controul—they viewed the English as strangers and mere

intruders, who had no right to the country, nor to controul its original proprietors, independent princes and sovereigns—they had made settlements at Connecticut without their consent, and brought home the Indian kings whom they had conquered, and restorted to them their authority and lands—they had built a fort, and were making a settlement without their approbation in their very neighbourhood—indeed they had now proceeded to attack and ravage the country;—the Pequots in consequence, breathed nothing but war and revenge; they were determined to extirpate or drive all the English from New-England. For this purpose they conceived the plan of uniting the Indians generally against them; they spared no art nor pains to make peace with the Narragansets, and to engage them in the war against the English: to whom they represented that the English, who were merely foreigners, were overspreading the country, and depriving the original inhabitants of their ancient rights and possessions; that unless effectual measures were immediately taken to prevent it, they would soon entirely dispossess the original proprietors and become the lords of the continent; they could either destroy or drive them from the country, that there would be no necessity of coming to open battles, that by killing their cattle, firing their houses, laying ambushes on the roads, in the field, and wherever they could surprise and destroy them, they might accomplish their wishes; they represented that if the English should effect the destruction of the Pequots, they would also soon destroy the Narragansets. So just and politic were these re-

presentations, that nothing but that thirst for revenge, which inflames the savage heart, could have resisted their influence; indeed it is said, that for some time the Narragansets hesitated.

The governor of the colonies, to prevent an union between these savage nations, and to strengthen the peace between the Narraganset Indians and the colonies, dispatched a messenger to invite *Miantinomi*, their chief sachem, to Boston.—The invitation was accepted by *Miantinomi*, and while at Boston, with the Governor and Council, he entered into a treaty, the substance of which was as follows, viz:—That there should be a firm peace maintained between the English and Narragansets, and their posterity: that neither party should make peace with the Pequots without its being first mutually assented to: that the Narragansets should not harbour the enemies of the English, but deliver up to them such fugitives as should resort to them for safety; the English were to give them notice when they went out against the Pequots, and the Narragansets were to furnish guides.

In February 1637, the English in Connecticut colony represented to the Governor and Council, their desire to prosecute more effectually the war with the Pequots, who yet continued to exercise towards them the most wanton acts of barbarity. They represented that on the 10th January, a boat containing three of their countrymen was attacked by the enemy as it was proceeding down the river; that the English for some time bravely defended themselves, but were at length overpowered by numbers; that the Indians, when they had succeeded

in capturing the boat's crew, ripped them up from the bottom of their bellies to their throats, and in like manner split them down their backs, and thus mangled, hung them upon trees by the river side! They represented that the affairs of Connecticut colony at this moment, wore a most gloomy aspect; that they had sustained great losses in cattle and goods the preceding year, but were still more unfortunate the present; that a most dreadful and insidious enemy were now seeking opportunity to destroy them—that they could neither hunt, fish or cultivate their fields, nor travel at home or abroad but at the peril of their lives—that they were obliged to keep a constant watch by night and day, to go armed at their daily labours and to the houses of public worship; and although desirous to prosecute the war more effectually with the common enemy, they were not in a situation to do it, and therefore humbly prayed for assistance.

The report of the horrid and unprovoked cruelties of the Pequots, practised upon the defenceless inhabitants of Connecticut colony, roused the other colonies to harmonious and spirited exertions against them. Massachusetts determined to send 200, and Plymouth 40 men, to assist their unfortunate brethren in prosecuting the war. Captain *Patrick* with 40 men was sent forward before the other troops, in order that he might be enabled seasonably to form a junction with the troops in Connecticut, who, notwithstanding their weak and distressed state, had engaged to furnish 90 men.

On Wednesday the 10th May, the Connecticut troops proceeded for their fort at Saybrook; they